

Application No.: 10/698,874

In the Claims:

1-19 Cancelled

20. (Original) A disposable balloon for use in a catheter system comprising an elongated catheter having a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end, an elongated balloon carrier having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrier and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrier, the second outer diameter of the balloon carrier being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter, the balloon being formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the balloon comprising: (a) a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, and (b) at least a third inside diameter; wherein the second diameter of the carrier and the third diameter of the balloon are configured to permit the balloon first to be slideably mounted onto the balloon carrier and second to be slideably moved from the carrier onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrier is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter.

21. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the third inside diameter of the lumen is configured to engage the second outside diameter of the carrier near or at the proximal and distal ends of the balloon.

22. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, further comprising proximal and distal removable sleeves for positioning, respectively, between the third inside diameter of the proximal and distal ends of the lumen and the second outer diameter of the carrier.

23. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the length between the proximal and distal ends of the balloon is selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 5 mm and about

Application No.: 10/698,874

100 mm, ranging between about 10 mm and about 80 mm, ranging between about 20 mm and about 60 mm, ranging between about 35 mm and about 55 mm, and ranging between about 40 mm and about 50 mm.

24. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the balloon has a wall thickness selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 0.05 mm and about 1 mm, ranging between about 0.1 mm and about 0.5 mm, ranging between about 0.15 mm and about 0.35 mm, and ranging between about 0.2 mm and about 0.3 mm.

25. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the third diameter is selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 3 mm and about 15 mm, ranging between about 4 mm and about 12 mm, ranging between about 5 mm and about 10 mm, and ranging between about 6 mm and about 9 mm.

26. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the lumen further comprises a fourth inside diameter that is greater than the third inside diameter, at least portions of the lumen disposed near or at the third proximal end and the third distal end having the third inside diameter, at least portions of the lumen disposed between the third proximal end and the third distal end having the fourth inside diameter.

27. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the fourth inside diameter is selected from the group consisting of between about 2 mm and about 20 mm, ranging between about 4 mm and about 15 mm, and ranging between about 6 mm and about 10 mm.

28. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the balloon comprises medical grade silicone.

29. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the balloon comprises a material having a tensile strength selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 200 psi and about 3000 psi, and ranging between about 1000 psi and about 2000 psi.

30. (Original) The balloon of claim 20, wherein the balloon comprises a material having a Shore

Application No.: 10/698,874

durometer hardness selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 5 ShA and about 100 ShA, and ranging between about 30 ShA and about 70 ShA.

31. Cancelled

32. (Original) A disposable balloon system for use with an elongated catheter comprising a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end, the disposable balloon system comprising: (a) an elongated balloon carrier having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrier and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrier, the second outer diameter of the balloon carrier being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter; and (b) a disposable balloon formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the balloon having a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, the lumen having at least a third inside diameter, the second diameter of the carrier and the third diameter of the balloon being configured to permit the balloon first to be slideably mounted onto the balloon carrier and second to be slideably moved from the carrier onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrier is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter.

33. (Original) The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the third inside diameter of the lumen is configured to engage the second outside diameter of the carrier near or at the proximal and distal ends of the balloon.

34. (Original) The balloon system of claim 32, further comprising proximal and distal removable sleeves for positioning, respectively, between the third inside diameter of the proximal and distal ends of the lumen and the second outer diameter of the carrier.

35. (Original) The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the length between the proximal and distal ends of the balloon is selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 5 mm and about 100 mm, ranging between about 10 mm and about 80 mm, ranging between about 20 mm and about 60 mm, ranging between about 35 mm and about 55 mm, and ranging between

Application No.: 10/698,874

about 40 mm and about 50 mm.

36. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the balloon has a wall thickness selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 0.05 mm and about 1 mm, ranging between about 0.1 mm and about 0.5 mm, ranging between about 0.15 mm and about 0.35 mm, and ranging between about 0.2 mm and about 0.3 mm.

37. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the third diameter is selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 3 mm and about 15 mm, ranging between about 4 mm and about 12 mm, ranging between about 5 mm and about 10 mm, and ranging between about 6 mm and about 9 mm.

38. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the lumen further comprises a fourth inside diameter that is greater than the third inside diameter, at least portions of the lumen disposed near or at the third proximal end and the third distal end having the third inside diameter, at least portions of the lumen disposed between the third proximal end and the third distal end having the fourth inside diameter.

39. (Original)The balloon system of claim 38, wherein the fourth inside diameter is selected from the group consisting of between about 2 mm and about 20 mm, ranging between about 4 mm and about 15 mm, and ranging between about 6 mm and about 10 mm.

40. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the balloon comprises medical grade silicone.

41. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the balloon comprises a material having a tensile strength selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 200 psi and about 3000 psi, and ranging between about 1000 psi and about 2000 psi.

42. (Original)The balloon system of claim 32, wherein the balloon comprises a material having a Shore durometer hardness selected from the group consisting of ranging between about 5 ShA

Application No.: 10/698,874

and about 100 ShA, and ranging between about 30 ShA and about 70 ShA.

43. (Original)A catheter system having a disposable means for expanding, comprising: (a) an elongated catheter comprising a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end; (b) an elongated means for carrying the expanding means having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrier and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrying means, the second outer diameter of the carrying means being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter; and (c) a disposable means for expanding formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the expanding means having a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, the lumen having at least a third inside diameter, the second diameter of the carrying means and the third diameter of the expanding means being configured to permit the expanding means first to be slideably mounted onto the carrying means and second to be slideably moved from the carrying means onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrying means is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter.

44. (Original)A disposable means for expanding for use in a catheter system comprising an elongated catheter having a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end, an elongated means for carrying the expanding means having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrying means and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrying means, the second outer diameter of the carrying means being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter, the expanding means being formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the expanding means comprising: (a) a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, and (b) at least a third inside diameter; wherein the second diameter of the carrying means and the third diameter of the expanding means are configured to permit the expanding means first to be slideably mounted onto the carrying means and second to be slideably moved from the carrying means onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrying means is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter.

Application No.: 10/698,874

45. (Original) A disposable means for expanding system for use with an elongated catheter comprising a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end, the disposable expanding means system comprising: (a) an elongated means for carrying the expanding means having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrying means and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrying means, the second outer diameter of the carrying means being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter; and (b) a disposable means for expanding formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the expanding means having a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, the lumen having at least a third inside diameter, the second diameter of the carrying means and the third diameter of the expanding means being configured to permit the expanding means first to be slideably mounted onto the carrying means and second to be slideably moved from the carrying means onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrying means is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter.

46. (Original) A method of mounting a disposable balloon on an elongated catheter using a disposable balloon system, the elongated catheter comprising a first outer diameter, a first proximal end and a first distal end, the disposable balloon system comprising an elongated balloon carrier having a second proximal end, a second distal end and a second outer diameter, the second proximal end of the carrier and the first distal end of the catheter being configured to permit the first distal end of the catheter to matingly engage the second proximal end of the carrier, the second outer diameter of the balloon carrier being similar to the first outer diameter of the catheter, and a disposable balloon formed from an expandable and resilient biocompatible material, the balloon having a lumen disposed between a third proximal end and a third distal end thereof, the lumen having at least a third inside diameter, the second diameter of the carrier and the third diameter of the balloon being configured to permit the balloon first to be slideably mounted onto the balloon carrier and second to be slideably moved from the carrier onto the catheter when the second proximal end of the carrier is matingly engaged with the first distal end of the catheter, the method comprising: (a) providing the elongated catheter; (b) providing the

Application No.: 10/698,874

disposable balloon system; (c) engaging the first distal end of the catheter against the second proximal end of the carrier, and (d) sliding the balloon onto the catheter from the carrier.

47. (Original)The method of claim 46, further comprising disposing proximal and distal sleeves beneath the proximal and distal ends of the balloon.

48. (Original)The method of claim 47, further comprising removing the sleeves after the balloon has been mounted on the catheter.